

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

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5      1.      A method of inducing neuronal production in post-natal and adult  
brain and spinal cord comprising:  
                 providing a nucleic acid construct encoding a neurotrophic factor  
and  
                 injecting the nucleic acid construct into a subject's lateral  
ventricles or ventricular zone wall under conditions effective to express the neurotrophic  
10      factor and to induce neuronal production in the brain and spinal cord of the subject.

2.      A method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid construct  
is in a viral vector.

15      3.      A method according to claim 2, wherein the viral vector is an  
adenoviral vector, a lentiviral vector, a retroviral vector, an adeno-associated viral vector,  
or a combination thereof.

20      4.      A method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid construct  
further comprises a constitutive promoter for controlling expression of the neurotrophic  
factor.

25      5.      A method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid construct  
further comprises a cell-specific promoter for controlling expression of the neurotrophic  
factor.

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30      6.      A method according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid construct  
further comprises an inducible or conditional promoter for controlling expression of the  
neurotrophic factor.

7.      A method according to claim 1, wherein the neurotrophic factor is  
brain-derived neurotrophic factor.

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8. A method according to claim 1, wherein the neurotrophic factor is neurotrophin-4/5.

5 9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the neurotrophic factor is neurotrophin-3.

10 10. A method according to claim 1, wherein the neurotrophic factor is insulin-like growth factor-1.

11. A method according to claim 1, wherein the neurotrophic factor is noggin.

15 12. A method according to claim 1, wherein the neurotrophic factor is an inhibitor of bone morphogenic proteins.

20 13. A method of recruiting neurons to a subject's brain comprising:  
providing a nucleic acid construct encoding a neurotrophic factor  
and  
injecting the nucleic acid construct into the subject's lateral  
ventricles or ventricular zone wall under conditions effective to express the neurotrophic  
factor and to recruit neurons to the brain of the subject.

25 14. A method according to claim 13, wherein the nucleic acid construct is in a viral vector.

30 15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the viral vector is an adenoviral vector, a lentiviral vector, a retroviral vector, an adeno-associated viral vector, or a combination thereof.

16. A method according to claim 13, wherein the nucleic acid construct further comprises a constitutive promoter for controlling expression of the neurotrophic factor.

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17. A method according to claim 13, wherein the nucleic acid construct further comprises a cell-specific promoter for controlling expression of the neurotrophic factor.

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18. A method according to claim 13, wherein the nucleic acid construct further comprises an inducible or conditional promoter for controlling expression of the neurotrophic factor.

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19. A method according to claim 13, wherein the neurotrophic factor is brain-derived neurotrophic factor.

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20. A method according to claim 13, wherein the neurotrophic factor is neurotrophin-4/5.

21. A method according to claim 13, wherein the neurotrophic factor is neurotrophin-3.

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22. A method according to claim 13, wherein the neurotrophic factor is insulin-like growth factor-1.

23. A method according to claim 13, wherein the neurotrophic factor is noggin.

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24. A method according to claim 13, wherein the neurotrophic factor is an inhibitor of bone morphogenic proteins.

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25. A method according to claim 13, wherein recruitment of neurons is to the olfactory bulb.

26. A method according to claim 13, wherein recruitment is to the basal ganglia of the brain, the caudate nucleus, the putamen, and/or the globus pallidus.

27. A method according to claim 13, wherein recruitment of neurons is to the cortex.

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28. A method of treating a neurodegenerative condition comprising:  
providing a nucleic acid construct encoding a neurotrophic factor  
and  
injecting the nucleic acid construct into a subject's lateral  
ventricles or ventricular zone wall under conditions effective to treat a neurodegenerative  
condition.

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29. A method according to claim 28, wherein the neurodegenerative  
condition is selected from the group consisting of Huntington's Disease, Parkinson's  
Disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, stroke, and traumatic injury to  
the brain and spinal cord.

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30. A method according to claim 29, wherein the neurodegenerative  
condition is Huntington's Disease.

20 31. A method according to claim 29, wherein the neurodegenerative  
condition is traumatic brain injury.

32. A method according to claim 29, wherein the neurodegenerative  
condition is stroke.

25 33. A method according to claim 28, wherein the nucleic acid construct  
is in a viral vector.

30 34. A method according to claim 33, wherein the viral vector is an  
adenoviral vector, a lentiviral vector, a retroviral vector, an adeno-associated viral vector,  
or a combination thereof.

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35. A method according to claim 28, wherein the nucleic acid construct further comprises a constitutive promoter for controlling expression of the neurotrophic factor.

5 36. A method according to claim 28, wherein the nucleic acid construct further comprises a cell specific promoter for controlling expression of the neurotrophic factor.

10 *Sub a8* 37. A method according to claim 28, wherein the nucleic acid construct further comprises an inducible or conditional promoter for controlling expression of the neurotrophic factor.

15 38. A method according to claim 28, wherein the neurotrophic factor is brain-derived neurotrophic factor.

39. A method according to claim 28, wherein the neurotrophic factor is neurotrophin-4/5.

20 40. A method according to claim 28, wherein the neurotrophic factor is neurotrophin-3.

41. A method according to claim 28, wherein the neurotrophic factor is insulin-like growth factor-1.

25 42. A method according to claim 28, wherein the neurotrophic factor is noggin.

30 43. A method according to claim 28, wherein the neurotrophic factor is an inhibitor of bone morphogenic proteins.

*Sub a9* 44. A method of treating a neurodegenerative condition comprising: providing a neurotrophic factor and

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injecting the neurotrophic factor into a subject's lateral ventricles or ventricular zone wall under conditions effective to treat a neurodegenerative condition.

5 45. A method according to claim 44, wherein the neurodegenerative condition is selected from the group consisting of Huntington's Disease, Parkinson's Disease, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, multiple sclerosis, stroke, and traumatic injury to the brain and spinal cord.

10 46. A method according to claim 45, wherein the neurodegenerative condition is Huntington's Disease.

47. A method according to claim 44, wherein the neurotrophic factor is brain-derived neurotrophic factor.

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